



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/715,439	11/16/2000	Shelton Louie	1205-002/JRD	5706

21034 7590 10/21/2002

IPSOLON LLP  
805 SW BROADWAY, #2740  
PORTLAND, OR 97205

EXAMINER

JAKETIC, BRYAN J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 10/21/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/715,439

Applicant(s)

LOUIE ET AL.

Examiner

Bryan Jaketic

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 November 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 10 and 12 (see p. 7). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase "timing information the amount of time" in line 3 is unclear. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claim 7 recites the limitation "said third location" in line 4 of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

7. Claims 1-7, 9-11, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Denenberg et al. Denenberg et al disclose a method for tracking prescription orders through a retail pharmacy having a plurality of spaced apart locations comprising the steps of receiving the prescription order at a first location (col. 9, lines 64 through col. 10, line 4); entering data into a computer system at a second location (16); tagging a carrier of the prescription order with a barcode (col. 6, lines 30-38); manually storing the filled prescription at one of a plurality of storage locations having a plurality of cubbies (14, 18, 20); automatically detecting the prescription order at one of the plurality of storage locations with a barcode reader (col. 8, lines 46-50); recording the location of the prescription order (col. 6, lines 39-47); and displaying the location on a computer display (col. 13, lines 27-47).

Denenberg et al further disclose the steps of automatically collecting timing information, storing the timing information, and compiling workflow information based on the timing information (col. 16, lines 1-43). A worker can be automatically signaled when the prescription order exceeds a predetermined amount of time (col. 16, lines 30-43). The workflow information may be associated with a particular worker to evaluate worker efficiency (col. 16, lines 2-5).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 15, 16, 18-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denenberg et al. Denenberg et al disclose all of the limitations of the claims except for a tag that is detachably secure to the prescription order or that is rigidly secured to the prescription. However, detachable and rigidly secure tags are both common in the art, and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a rigidly secured tag with the invention of Denenberg et al to ensure that the tags aren't mistakenly lost. Alternatively, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a detachable tag with the invention of Denenberg et al, so that the tags may be re-used.

Denenberg et al also fail to disclose a tag reader for each cubby. However, Denenberg et al disclose a tag reader (50) for the entire station, and an additional sensor (23) for each cubby that detects when a prescription is placed in the cubby or moved away. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a tag reader in each cubby, to reduce the workload of the worker and reduce error.

10. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denenberg et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Pilarczyk. Denenberg et al disclose all of the limitations of the claim except for a teaching of notifying a pharmacy worker if a refill prescription has been prematurely submitted. Pilarczyk discloses a system for prescription compliance that notifies a worker if a refill has been submitted prematurely (col. 10, lines 5-28). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the teachings of Pilarczyk with the invention of Denenberg et al so that a pharmacist may make note of premature refills.

11. Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denenberg et al as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Engellenner. Denenberg et al disclose all of the limitations of the claims except for an electromagnetic tag and tag reader. Engellenner discloses an electromagnetic tag and tag reader (see Fig. 1) for locating items. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the tag and tag reader of

Art Unit: 3627

Engellenner with the invention of Denenberg et al, because the tag reader of Engellenner can interrogate a larger spatial region.

### ***Conclusion***

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Fuchs et al, McCay et al, and Brook et al disclose methods of tracking items in a hospital. Williams et al, Ahlin et al, Boyer et al (US 6,202,923), and Boyer et al (US 5907,493) disclose pharmaceutical management systems. Nellhaus discloses a method of barcoding drugs. Phoon et al disclose an apparatus for storing and tracking usage of drugs. Brown discloses a method for inventorying substances.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bryan Jaketic whose telephone number is (703) 308-0134. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday (9:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (703) 308-5183. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

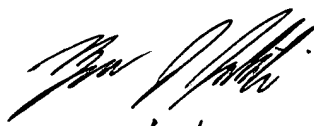
Application/Control Number: 09/715,439

Page 7

Art Unit: 3627

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

bj  
October 17, 2002



10/17/02